

On a Tertiary Fossil Insect Wing from Queensland (*Homoptera Fulgoroidea*), with description of a New Genus and Species.

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(Plate I and two Text-figures.)

(Read before Royal Society of Queensland, 30th April, 1923)

THE beautiful fossil insect wing which forms the subject of this paper was discovered near Goodna, Q., by Mr. W. H. Bryan, M.Sc., Lecturer in Geology at the University of Queensland. Mr. Bryan, in sending me the fossil for description, wrote as follows:—"The specimen was collected by me from the Tertiary beds at Redbank Plains, near Goodna, at the same spot and from the same horizon as your *Euporismites balli*, described on pp. 44-45, Queensland Geol. Survey Publ. No. 253, and figured on Plate 3. Associated with these wings are a fairly rich fish fauna and a number of well-preserved dicotyledonous plants."

With regard to the age of the beds in which the fossil was found, there is some doubt, owing to lack of evidence of any Pleistocene glaciation and the absence of fossiliferous *marine* beds in the series; but the presence immediately beneath these beds of vesicular trachyte, which Professor Richards regards tentatively as belonging to his Middle Division of the Tertiary Volcanics of Queensland, suggests a Miocene age for the fossiliferous beds themselves.

The fossil wing might at first sight be taken for one of the Psychopsid lacewings, owing to its great breadth, its general shape, and the density of its venation. But examination under a low power proves at once that it belongs to the family Ricaniidæ of the Fulgoroid Homoptera, and is very closely allied to the recent Australian genus *Scolypopa* Stål, of which

one species, *S. australis* (Walker), is the very common Passion-Vine Hopper of Eastern Australia, an insect very common throughout Queensland and the warmer parts of New South Wales. There is, indeed, no reason for not accepting the strong probability that, in this new fossil find, we have actually a species which was the direct ancestor of our common *Scolyppopa*.

In order to facilitate comparison of the fossil and recent types, I have given in Text-fig. 1 a careful drawing of the actual fossil wing, which is practically complete except for the absence of the clavus or anal area, and in Text-fig. 2 a similar drawing of the forewing of *Scolyppopa australis* (Walker). The fossil requires a new genus for its reception, and I propose to name it *Scolypopites bryani* n.g. et sp., the generic name indicating its close affinity to *Scolyppopa*, and the specific name being a dedication to its discoverer, who is to be heartily congratulated on his find. A comparison of the venational scheme of the two genera will be found attached to the generic definition.

ORDER HEMIPTERA.

SUB-ORDER HOMOPTERA.

SUPERFAMILY FULGOROIDEA.

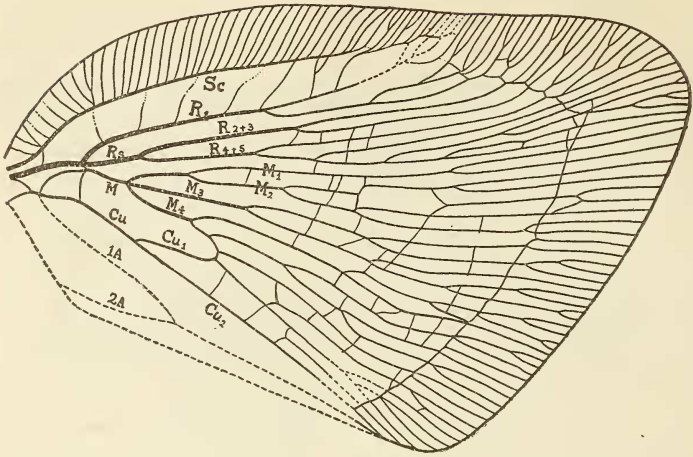
FAMILY RICANIIDÆ.

GENUS SCOLYPOPITES n.g.

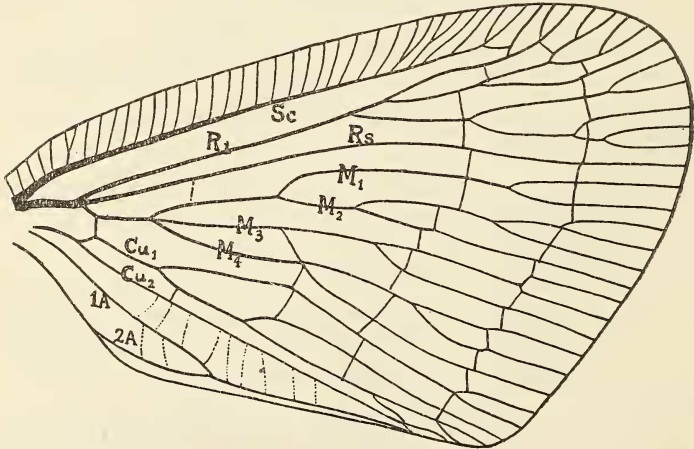
Insects of the general build and facies of *Scolyppopa* Stål, with very broad, closely-veined forewings. Venational scheme very similar to that of *Scolyppopa*, but more primitive in the following characters:—

- (1) Sc. not so strong a vein as R, and only reaching to a little beyond the middle of the costal margin.
- (2) M and R not completely fused at bases.
- (3) Of the two gradate series of cross-veins found complete in *Scolyppopa*, only the outer or marginal one is present in *Scolypopites* n.g.

As in the Psychopsid and Osmylid Lacewings, this gradate series divides the wing into a central "disc" and an outer marginal area. In *Scolypopites* n.g. there are numerous weakly formed and irregularly placed cross-veins within the disc.



TEXT-FIGURE 1:—*Scolypopites bryani* n.g. et sp. Forewing (x 6). The missing clavus is restored by dotted lines. 1A, 2A, the two anal veins, forming the claval Y-vein; Cu, cubitus; Cu₁, its upper branch; Cu₂, its lower branch, the *vena dividens*; M, media, with its four main branches, M₁ to M₄; R₁, main stem of radius; R_s, radial sector, branching into R₂₊₃ and R₃₊₅; Sc, subcosta. Tertiary (? Upper Miocene) of Goodna, Q.



TEXT-FIGURE 2:—*Scolypopa australis* (Walker). Forewing (x 11, For comparison with Text-figure 1, which see for venational notation. (Actual size, 8 mm. long by 5 mm. wide). Recent, Eastern Australia.



Scolypopites bryani, Tillyard, n.g. et sp.